

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the
Commission's Own Motion to Determine
Whether Baseline Allowances for Residential
Usage of Gas and Electricity Should Be Revised.

Rulemaking 01-05-047

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
RESCHEDULING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS
AND REQUIRING CUSTOMER NOTICE**

As a result of the events of September 11, 2001, Public Participation Hearings set for September 11 and 12 were cancelled. This ruling reschedules those Public Participation Hearings, and adds one additional Public Participation Hearing.

The Commission has stated that the purpose of this proceeding is "to determine whether current baseline allowances for residential gas and electricity users in California should be revised, and if so, to what new levels." (Order Instituting Rulemaking, May 24, 2001, p. 1.) At the Public Participation Hearings scheduled as part of this proceeding, interested members of the public may make their views known to the Commission on the issues to be addressed in this proceeding. Public Participation Hearings in this proceeding are set for the following dates and locations. Please note that the rescheduled Public Participation Hearings are being held in different locations than originally scheduled.

December 12, 2001
2:00 p.m.

Palm Springs
Palm Springs Convention Center

277 Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs

December 13, 2001

10:00 a.m.

Alhambra

Auditorium, The Alhambra
1000 South Fremont, Alhambra

December 13, 2001

7:00 p.m.

Fullerton

Wilshire Auditorium
Fullerton College Campus
315 East Wilshire, Fullerton

Comments at the Public Participation Hearings may address issues relating to baseline, including consideration of the priorities and policy objectives of the baseline program, possible changes to climate zones, consideration of household and demographic characteristics, definition of seasons, and gas versus electric issues. Other issues reasonably within the scope of the proceeding may also be addressed at the Public Participation Hearings.

In a previous Ruling,¹ respondent utilities were directed to coordinate with the Commission's Public Advisor's Office regarding the preparation and content of bill inserts providing notice of these Public Participation Hearings. Respondent utilities should incorporate the above information, and continue to coordinate with the Commission's Public Advisor's Office.

All respondent utilities are required to provide timely notice to their customers of the Public Participation Hearings in or near their service territory. A timely notice is one designed to be received by a customer no fewer than 10 calendar days prior to the date of the earliest Public Participation Hearing.

¹ Ruling of Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge Setting Prehearing Conference, June 11, 2001.

Each respondent utility shall send written notices, in a form approved by the Public Advisor's Office, either by mailing them postage prepaid directly to customers, or by including notices with customers' regular bills. To the extent any utility bills its customers electronically via the Internet, notice to those customers may also be done electronically.

Anyone who needs assistance with participation in this proceeding should make use of the resources on the Commission's web site, www.cpuc.ca.gov, or should contact our Public Advisor's Office, which is available to help parties understand how to participate in a proceeding, how to file a pleading, and to answer other questions about Commission procedure. The northern California office can be reached at 415-703-2074 or public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. The southern California office can be reached at 213-576-7055 or public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Public Participation Hearings will be held on the dates and at the locations and times described above.
2. Each respondent utility shall provide a company representative at each of the Public Participation Hearings in, or within 125 miles of, its service territory, to be available to address any questions or concerns expressed by attendees.
3. Each respondent utility will provide notice to its customers not later than 10 calendar days prior to the earliest Public Participation Hearing in, or within 125 miles of, its service territory. If none of the Hearings listed above is in or within 125 miles of a utility's service territory, that utility need not provide notice of the Hearings. Notices shall be provided either as an insert with a regular bill or may be mailed separately if necessary to reach customers at least 10 days before the earliest Public Participation Hearing.

4. Each respondent utility will provide to the Public Advisor's Office not later than five days prior to the relevant Public Participation Hearings, a letter certifying that it has complied with the requirement of Ruling Paragraph 3 above. The compliance letter shall state the date(s) notices were sent to customers and the approximate number of customers so notified, and attaching one copy of the actual notice used.

5. Any party that desires expedited or daily transcripts should advise the Chief Hearing Reporter by telephone at (415) 703-2288 no later than three days prior to the first day of hearings.

Dated October 17, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ PETER V. ALLEN

Peter V. Allen
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Rescheduling Public Participation Hearings and Requiring Customer Notice on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated October 17, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ FANNIE SID

Fannie Sid

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074 or TTY# 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.